Impact of import of lead on Indian Battery Industry

3072. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic lead acid battery manufacturers have suffered a six per cent drop in market share owing to cheap imports from various countries, who avail of low customs duty on the finished products;

(b) whether the Indian Battery Manufacturers Association has appealed to Government to review and amend the existing customs duty on import of lead;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon; and

(d) to what extent this import of lead will lead to damage of environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the other concerned Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implication of WTO agreement

3073. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a dispassionate and in-depth study of the implication of the WTO agreement, to which India is a signatory, has become necessary; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government so that none of the member-country is indulged in dumping its over production of agro products our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Study of the implications of different WTO agreements is an ongoing process. The Government have, from time to time, commissioned studies by renowned institutions to study the impact of some specific WTO agreements.

(b) In the ongoing negotiations on agriculture in WTO, India had co-sponsored a proposal on 'Market Access' along with Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Haiti, wherein it has been demanded that dumping by developed countries must be prohibited.

The Government has also put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring of the imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing duties and taking safeguard action under specified circumstances.

Indo-German Trade

3074. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's bilateral trade with Germany has crossed Rs. 20,000 crores upto December, 2000;

(b) if so, to what extent Indian exports to Germany and import from Germany have reached uptill now;

(c) whether this increase upto February, 2001, given Indian exports, grew by 15 per cent; and

(d) the other steps Government further considers to improve the Indo-German trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No Sir. The Indo-German bilateral trade during April-December 2000 amounted to Rs. 12,141 crores.